

**RIFLE PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES 2009**

**MONDAY JULY 20, 2009**

**RIFLE CITY HALL**

The meeting was called to order by chairman Ed Weiss at 5:36 p.m. Roll call was taken with the following members present:

<b>MEMBERS PRESENT</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
Jim Boone	X	
Chris Coffelt		X
Christi Gray		X
Mark Lapka	X	
Ryan Mackley		X
Tom Stuver	X	
Ed Weiss	X	
Mildred Whitt	X	

**STAFF PRESENT:** Aleks Briedis, Tom Whitmore

Minutes were of previous meetings were discussed as follows:

**MINUTES OF THE MAY 11th MEETING:** Action was deferred to approve the minutes of the May 11<sup>th</sup> meeting due to not having enough members present who were in attendance at the May 11<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**MINUTES OF THE JUNE 8th<sup>TH</sup> MEETING:** It was moved by Jim Boone and seconded by Mildred Whitt to accept the minutes of the June 8<sup>th</sup> meeting. The motion passed by voice vote.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:** None.

**SENIOR CENTER REPORT:** Mildred had nothing new to report. Aleks stated that "Dinner in the Valley" is continuing and that the Leadville Train event was full. Jim Boone had a question on "Meals on Wheels" related to the involvement of the Parks and Recreation Fund in that program. Aleks responded that the Parks and Recreation Budget is not involved in funding "Meals on Wheels".

**CENTENNIAL PARK UPDATE:** Aleks reported that Council had approve ECI, to be the general contractor for Centennial Park and had authorized staff to enter into a contract for \$3,049,940.00.

We discussed alternates that are currently not included in the project, to keep the project within budget. Aleks stated that use of local subs was emphasized, ECI was the only firm to advertise for local subs in local publications and that about 65% of the project was attributable to those subs. Aleks reported that ECI was the lowest bidder and that, according to the purchasing ordinance, there is no purchase preference for local vendors for large bonded capital projects. The DoLA grant stipulates that the lowest bidder must be used. Aleks also reported that City Manager, John Hier, desired to do a supplemental appropriation out of the fund balance to cover the up-front cost of the project. Council also approved this appropriation. This will leave about \$650,000 in the fund balance. Aleks continued that the contract for the project is due back on August 4<sup>th</sup> and the pre-construction meeting is on August 13<sup>th</sup> and that construction would begin shortly thereafter. A ground-breaking ceremony will likely take place in late August after school is back in session.

**TRAIL 13<sup>th</sup> STREET to 16<sup>th</sup> STREET:** Aleks reported that this project may wait until spring. We were awarded \$200,000 from GOCO. \$70,000 will come from the Parks and Recreation Fund. Jim asked about the cost and if retaining walls were a big factor and commented that we should have some kind of celebration when it's done; why don't we do more to continue the trail? Aleks commented that construction along the creek was expensive; also, more grant money is available but dependent on matching funds and thus budget constraints. Mark asked about trail plans south of the interstate. Aleks said that other trail advocacy groups are working on that and also that the Gateway Study is looking at some connections. Tom S. added that he agreed with Jim that there should be a ribbon cutting etc. which would include public on bikes, etc., and that there should be a celebration when all segments are constructed and linked together.

**PARKS MAINTENANCE FACILITY UPDATE:** Tom reported that construction is continuing according to schedule according to the construction Superintendent. Paving and curb and gutter are complete, road patches have been made, and drywall and texturing is being worked on and nearly complete. Painting of the shop is nearly complete and electrical, mechanical, and shop doors etc. is in progress. Landscaping will begin soon. Tom stated that as soon as I.T. is up and we receive a C.O., administrative staff will move in and the field staff will begin migrating in as time allows. The rest of the move will occur after fall sports and major fall projects have slowed down.

**PARKS DEPARTMENT UPDATE:** Work on Moki playground is still in progress. The playground fall zone material has been replaced with engineered wood chips and the playground is open. Work remains to be done on the retaining wall. Pole bases for the security lights and security cameras are being designed by a structural engineer. Parks staff will work on installation later this fall as other demands slow down.

**FINANCIAL UPDATE:** Aleks stated that generally revenue is down by 20%. Plans for reduction of expenditures have been submitted by staff. We will be submitting a lean budget for 2010. We have currently reduced expenditures and have waived purchase of capital equipment and vehicles and are working on reducing other capital expenditures.

**LITTLE LEAGUE TOURNAMENT:** The pending little league regional tournament was brought up by Jim Boone. Jim stated that he thought that hosting this in Rifle was a pretty big deal. Tom W. mentioned that the tournament came up abruptly, in the middle of field repair and renovation and that Cooper Field was actually closed for maintenance when we were first approached about the tournament. We agreed to allow the tournament to go ahead and that Little League had agreed to work with us to limit stress on the field, new sod, etc. Ed asked if Little League had requested a home run fence to be installed. Tom stated that no-one had requested one, and that we didn't have material available to install one.

**NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting is scheduled for August 10th. Tom Stuver and Mark Lapka will not be able to attend on the 10<sup>th</sup>.

**OTHER:**

Chairman Weiss suggested that we may not need strategic planning this year and that he favored a work session with council. Tom S. commented that items to discuss at planning are dependant on revenue increasing or decreasing. Jim inquired about whether we need to consider more times to review how we are progressing at following the plan. Aleks suggested that we review the plan at the upcoming meeting. Ed stated that it should be included in the minutes and we should plan for a time when all board members are present. Aleks said he would include it as an item for the next meeting as a reminder.

Aleks stated that he would be meeting with a group that wanted to look into moving the boat ramp; he will report back.

The board briefly discussed progress of the health and wellness center. A survey/priority of amenities is being considered. Aleks suggested including an opinion poll to evaluate publics opinion about what is being done with the 1 cent sales tax. Tom W. stated his concern with two surveys being sent together and that it may confuse the recipients about ties between the 1 cent Park and Recreation sales tax and funding of the Health and Wellness Center.

Tom S. commented that survey results can be misleading and people don't always know what we have currently. Tom S. suggested that, for example, we state what we amenities we have currently, with a question of whether they favor more facilities. Ed stated that he wants public input other than the survey. The board generally felt that, with limited funds, public input should be solicited to prioritize what should be included in the facility. Tom S. commented that we shouldn't use dollar amounts but assign a value or "credit" to each item (out of a total of, for example, 20 credits) based on its proportional cost, and ask the public to prioritize what they would include within their 20 credits. Jim suggested including a key that would help people visualize relative size and utility of space.

Aleks reported on a potential situation that could arise with the rec. league 11-12 baseball tournament in Meeker and sought the board's opinion on how to handle it:

"It could come to be that both Rifle teams will be playing for the championship and some of the Rifle parents are already talking about moving the game to Rifle so they won't have to travel to Meeker."

Ed recalled a controversy over the same thing two years ago. Tom S. commented that it should be understood before the tournament starts that it is not appropriate to pull out (of host town). Aleks commented that Meeker comes to Rifle all of the time. Tom S. stated: "Tell them that the board thinks it's rude to even think about it." The board agreed by consensus.

Mark stated that he "really, really, really, missed the fireworks this year; is there something we can do?" Aleks responded that there is a group working on a sponsored event that would include fireworks as part of the event.

Jim asked about how things are going at RMP. Tom W. responded that we'd like to manage the park at a much more intensive level and have more enforcement. So far, with other priorities, council hasn't yet approved those budget requests and the park is getting by with minimal inputs. Jim asked if board members still could get free passes. Aleks said yes, just come in to the rec. department.

Meeting was declared adjourned by Chairman Ed Weiss at 7:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Tom Whitmore.